Zookeeper

**Job Description:** Oversee and care for a wide variety of animals, including land mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, and sometimes marine animals.

**What does a zookeeper do?**

* Prepare food for animals.
* Feed and water animals according to schedules and feeding instructions.
* Report changes, health problems, or unusual behaviors in the animals in your care.
* Respond to questions from guests, and provide information about animals, such as behavior, habitat, breeding habits, or facility activity.
* Clean, organize, and disinfect animals quarters such as pens, stables, cages, and yards, and animal equipment such as saddles and bridles.
* Collect and record animal information such as weight, size, physical condition, treatments received, medications given, and food intake.
* Exercise animals to maintain their physical and mental health.
* Provide treatment to sick or injured animals, or contact veterinarians to secure treatment.

**Outlook:**

Average Salary - $9.40 hourly, $19,550 annual

Projected Job Openings – 73,600 over the next 10 years for nonfarm animal caretaker jobs.

**Your Interests:**

* Do you enjoy animals?
* Do you like working outside?
* Do you like taking care of pets?
* Do you communicate well with others?

**Education/Program of Study:**

* Minimum two-year associate degree in animal science, wildlife management, zoology, or conservation biology
* Larger zoos might require a bachelor’s degree